BULLETIN FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

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MUST BOOKS

August 9

Thompson, Sylvia — RECAPTURE THE MOON — Little, Brown

Sylvia Thompson has recently seemed to tend towards a rather patterned story. That fault she has corrected in this new novel, which is totally different in both content and form from her previous books. The theme is an analysis of the years in which a girl, widowed after ten days of radiant happiness and embittered by the war and its toll, seeks forgetfulness in a whirl of meaningless activity, recognizing her emptiness of life but finding a barrier between her own frozen emotions and any human impact. The frenzied postwar years cross-sectioning London and Paris society - a suggestion, perhaps, of the tempo and motif of Rebecca West's *The Thinking Reed*. Other central characters are a girl whose one urge is to be needed and who throws herself away on wasters, regardless of the price it costs her; her brother, charming but rather purposeless, ultimately wrecked by opium; an intimate friend of of the brother's, who eventually finds balance and happiness in recognizing his love. The style is difficult - but the substance is there. $2.50

August 23

Day, Clarence — LIFE WITH MOTHER — Knopf

*** Sure fire - it might have been cut from the same cloth as *Life With Father*, and people will be comparing notes over which is their favorite of the two. Though the emphasis is on his mother, his father emerges as clear-cut and tangy as ever. Gentle humor, sympathetically objective, occasional satire with the velvet glove, a perfect picture of two people and a background. There is more of the homes and the details of living, perhaps, than in the first book. To get the special and distinctive flavor of this one, read *Mother and Bessie Skinner's Ring* and *Father Brightens the Sick-Room*. Some of the material has appeared in The New Yorker. The manuscript was complete before Clarence Day's death and the decision then made to do it in two books. All rag edition - $7.50 - - Trade edition $2.00

September 10

Cronin, A. J. — ~~HANSON, M.D.~~ The Citadel — Little, Brown

** His best book, since *Hatter's Castle*. Cronin is a doctor himself, and this book, the experiences of a young doctor working his way up from medical school to success as a fashionable London physician, has doubtless a basis of sound knowledge of the problems sincere young idealists face. The early part - his struggles against prejudice and jealousy and superstition in the mining districts of South Wales, were to me the most interesting parts of the book. With ultimate success came the dangers of too much money, power and adulation - and too little challenge to his real abilities, and for a time he succumbed, putting not only his professional standing but his personal ambitions, ideals and happiness in peril. Just in time, he realized where he was heading, in time for his honor as a physician, not in time to rescue his happiness as a man. A grand story, well told, and better balanced than anything else he has done. $2.50

Fiction Peaks Above The Level - But Not Must Items for Made Markets

There's the novel by David Lamson, *Whirlpool* (Scribner). There's a new story by a newcomer - sheer adventure, *Background To Danger* by Eric Ambler (Knopf). *Place In The City* by Howard Fast (Harcourt, Brace) is a book to watch. *The Nutmeg Tree* by Margery Sharp (Little, Brown) equals *The Flowering Thorn* in chances for popularity. In *So Great A Man* by David Pilgrim (Harper) there's a sure market among Napoleonic fans. Reports below.

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS - *Fiction*

July 15

Tracy, Don LAST YEAR'S SNOW Michael Mill

A bit on the Peter B. Kyne plus James Oliver Curwood, with drugstore rental possibilities, but not much above that level. Pete and Joe find content in their hunting lodge in the far north, until Marty, Pete's ex-wife comes into the picture, with her new husband, they four are snowbound, and there are fireworks. Murder - suspicion - partings - and eventually, when Pete finds out the truth, he keeps Joe in ignorance to save their newly knit friendship. Love and hate and passion - hard-boiled. $2.00

July 16

Goodyear, Susan CATHEDRAL CLOSE Scribner

* This for the Walpole fans of his cathedral genre. Not just another story of people who live in the shadow of a cathedral, but a well-written, intelligent picture of the coming of a new Dean to an exacting community, the problems of adjustment his wife - blessed with a sense of humor and true values - faces when a 25-year old scandal comes to light. Kindness tempers justice for the good of all. Many delightful touches and a gallery of characters that are refreshing. $2.50

July 20

Housman, Laurence KING JOHN OF JINGALO Scribner

A reprint of a book written, amazingly enough, during the period when militant suffragettes were headliners - and now reprinted because of its extraordinary timeliness. Mix the Supreme Court tempest with the ex-king's romance, and stir in a few other elements, and you'd have King John of Jingalo in essence. Political satire, quite British, to be sure, and somewhat dependent on a knowledge of the machinery of English politics, I imagine, for full enjoyment, - none the less it is a clever bit of comedy. I question a general sale over here - but don't overlook it. $2.50

July 23

Lamson, David WHIRLPOOL Scribner

* His first book, at least since he was arrested on a charge later disproved, *We Who Are About To Die*, was an extraordinarily objective indictment of prison systems, written without bitterness. Now comes this novel, a story of a false accusation resulting in arrest, trial and condemnation. Circumstantial evidence is too strong for its victim. False estimates of his character, petty jealousies among his neighbors, twisted reports and rumors, all bring the almost inevitable result. The

facts of the story are not Lamson's own, but the other details - the build-up of evidence, the attitude of a community, the legal aspects, the selection of the jury, the trial, the conviction - and the contacts with fellow prisoners - all very evidently are based on an intimate knowledge of conditions. Extremely well done, powerful as criticism of a system, under which such tragedies can occur, and absorbing reading. Setting - near Spokane, but sale will be particularly strong in California. $2.50

July 27

Large, E. C. SUGAR IN THE AIR Scribner

A fantastic blow-up of the tyranny of big business as background for the story of a chemical engineer and the way in which he becomes involved in the modern combination of science and industrial methods. An eccentric has been backed to get sugar from the air, the engineer is hired to watch him, discovers fraud, and circumvents the trick by launching a method which is partially sound. Then follows the artificial bolstering, internal politics, et al - and crash. Targets at which the book aims - current business and its inhumanity, waste and futility of modern industrialism - English, but basically much like our own problems. Thought-provoking - of more interest to men than women. $2.50

August 12

Toksvig, Signe EVE'S DOCTOR Harcourt, Brace

A thesis novel - the picture of the struggle of a surgeon against the bigotry and superstition of the Roman Catholic Church. The love story, between the young woman on whom Dr. McMurrough has operated, and the doctor, is secondary to the doctor's struggles for medical progress, birth control, etc. He loses his battle - is ousted from the hospital - and leaves for America. The setting is Dublin. The author seems to know intimately the inner workings of a hospital. The characters are sympathetically treated. May have a chance for *Men In White* sort of market, but has definite barriers in various directions, so watch your sales. $2.50

August 9

Ambler, Eric BACKGROUND TO DANGER Knopf

* Grand adventure story in old Oppenheim tradition. Middle Europe setting, internation spies, oil concessions, with various agencies all after the same data and stopping at nothing to get their stuff. A young English journalist, penniless, becomes inadvertently involved in passing papers over the border - and finds himself implicated in a murder. From then on he is center of attack. Slight thread of romance with young Soviet agent adds love interest to adventure. Well done. $2.00

August 12

Fast, Howard PLACE IN THE CITY Harcourt, Brace

Here's a young man who sees below the surface - and has a unique way of conveying what he sees to others. This tale is a strange blend of fantasy and sordid realism - cross-sectioning the lives of a group of people living in a backwash of New York's west side. Circumstances, propinquity, passions, ambitions interweave their lives and tangle the threads. Not a book for the squeamish - the conservative. But there is something fresh and new, poignant and compelling, unpleasant and fascinating, not convincing, in its structure, its interplay of fantasy, but tantalizing, because it is so nearly a brilliant piece of writing. Watch it! $2.00

Mid-August

Burt, Katharine Newlin WHEN BEGGARS CHOOSE Macrae Smith

Not much exercise for the grey matter in the story of Mrs. Lovat who - to take a very necessary job - dumps her four daughters on four relatives, renaming them for the individual relatives. Each finds romance, adventure and excitement and the masquerade ends happily. Ample plot - - for not too critical moments. $2.00

August 23

Sharp, Margery THE NUTMEG TREE Little, Brown

* This is perfectly delightful reading, original, subtle, and consistently entertaining. The heroine is Julia, a gentle wanton, florid, common, aging fast - who goes to visit her daughter for the first time in twenty years, having left her in the more dignified care of her grandparents. The purpose of the visit is to see that she does not marry a charming wastrel, whom Julia unfortunately recognizes as "her sort", unsuited to her daughter's sedate and all too worthwhile nature. The entry of an elderly peer, Sir William, complicates Julia's emotional difficulties as well as the family problem - but all is worked through satisfactorily. An intriguing set of characters, a novel situation, handled deftly and with great humor. $2.50

August ~~24~~ 31st

Sabatini, Rafael THE LOST KING Houghton, Mifflin

* Sabatini has a market, though not the market he had early in his career. Here is another Lost Dauphin story, with an authentic feeling background, less swashbuckling than one associates with Sabatini, and, from point of view of history - cum-romance, a good job, though some Sabatini fans will find it slow moving. The story revolves around a plot to oust Louis XVIII while Napoleon was safely out of the way in Elba, and to place the man accepted by Fouche and La Salle as the Lost Dauphin on his rightful throne. Napoleon's escape from Elba quickly changes the picture and Charles is free to join the girl he loves. $2.00

August 25

Phelan, James L. MUSEUM Morrow

A grim story within the prison walls, written by a prisoner and giving a photographic impression of the life and the people as background for the story of a man who is a lifer, of his adaptation, the effect on his personality, his shifting focus, and the ultimate disintegration which results in his death after release. A slim thread of plot, but the real plot is the prison itself. An extraordinary piece out of life - bits of real beauty - bits of ugliness - powerful - unpleasant - does not gloss over abnormalities - depressing beyond words - but unforgettable. The author is writing out of experience. Anyone interested in prison work will find this an important contribution to criminology. Almost everyone will find it absorbing as a human document. Not propaganda - but a vital bit of life. $2.50

August 27

Sadleir, Michael THESE FOOLISH THINGS Putnam

A well handled piece of light fiction, told in the first person, a sort of picaresque "Sentimental Education " in modern mood. He reviews - after parting with the first real love of his life - his three previous experiences, his education for love. He has an amazing knack of brief visual image, facile dialogue, originality of vocabulary. Better than fluff - charming and at times acute, though not profound in his anatomy of love. Occasional overwriting. On the whole worth while. $2.50

September 28 / Oct 14.

O'Flaherty, Liam FAMINE Random House

* A rugged and moving novel of the Irish sharecroppers in the 1860's, living on the rocky, bleak territory of Black Valley. The Kilmartin home is the scene of action, and the community consists of potato farmers and squatters, barely able to meet the dues to the landlord, and in turn to England. The crops fail, the sadistic landlord takes the cattle in payment, rebellion breaks out and the man is murdered. England steps in with a slim measure of relief - again a blight - famine - plague. Eventually all die in the valley, but Mary, who had married into the Kilmartin household, and her child. She joins her husband, wanted for the murder, and they escape to America and its hoped-for security. Told with simplicity and beauty. An indictment of a system, but that is secondary to the humanness of the picture. A rarely lovely book, which deserves wider sales than his previous work has won. Try for your Padraic Colum and your Dunsany market, though this is reality not fantasy. The dialect is no impediment. $2.50

September 10

Bassett, Sara Ware SHINING HEADLANDS Doubleday, Doran

Cape Cod background and dependable sweetness and light. For the Lincoln market, less those who like Lincoln for his salty humor. Story of a native Cape Codder who breaks the laws of tradition and rents a neighbor's house to strangers, and takes the neighbor to board. Then follows the conflict between the security of the newcomer's background, and the aimlessness of the old-timer. When she turns down the newcomer, she realizes at last that she loves the other man. Sure favorite for the conservatives, who want their love stories to pattern. $2.00

Webb, Barbara FLIGHT FROM YESTERDAY Doubleday, Doran

Pretty sloppy, this story of the poor little rich boy, brought up simply, wed to home loving girl, and ruined when his millions are loosed upon him. Eventually tragedy stalks him, his wife leaves him for a painter, and after a reconciliation, Nora is killed by her would-be-lover's aunt, who was unwilling to give up the small son to the parents. So the grandmother, who tells the story, takes her two lads off to recuperate. Far-fetched plot, glamorous circles from Sutton Place to English hunting country. Not as good a yarn as she can spin. $2.00

September 22

Hurst, Fannie ~~TEARS AND CHEERS~~ We are Jew Harper

Short stories, not in the folk rhythms of her earlier stories, but distinctly problem stories in modern vein. High in emotional content, with murder, faithfulness and faithlessness, greed and charity, courage and weakness, and love generally dominating. Better than average sales and rentals for short stories. $2.50

Pilgrim, David SO GREAT A MAN 10-6 Harper

A Napoleonic novel - in which the fictionized elements are definitely subordinate in emphasis and interest to the gradual unfolding of the character of Napoleon himself. At the height of his power, somewhat drunk with it, he makes his first major false move, the Spanish campaign and the ousting of the Bourbons, a

move which led to his downfall by setting into motion various other subversive activities on the part of his closest advisers. The central figure is the younger Marbot, and the older brother plays a minor part. Walewska, the Polish mistress, Josephine, Talleyrand, Fouche, the Russian Tsar and the Spanish royal family play active parts in this segment of the Napoleonic story, and to a large extent the plot revolves around the plottings and plannings to supply an heir for the throne. One feels a lack of unity, of focus, since there is no solution to the question posed - simply the approach to the decision on the part of Walewska, that the place beside Napoleon is not in her stars. A certain freedom, rather unjustified, has been taken with the facts, but the spirit is well sustained, and the purpose of the book is achieved. It's not easy reading, slow getting under way, and overpacked with detail.... Watch it, however. My guess on the two leading candidates for the Harper Prize Novel is this book and the Prokosch title, *The Seven Who Fled.* (Page 234) $2.50 or $3.00

September 23

Stevenson, Sylvia THE FLOWERING ALOE Henry Holt

A rather interesting presentation of an older woman's conflict against modern forces. Selina Chantry at 60, a widow, finds herself alone. Her three children have gone to London, disregarding her. The mother gets involved in a spiritualist circle. There is keen satire of the various worlds, of settlement work in which the daughter indulges; in the movie world where the cartoonist son plays about; in other extremes of 20th century life. At the close, the daughter, deserted by her lover, returns to her mother - and the flowering aloe, a century plant, blooms again, symbolizing new-found faith. Well done, rarely sentimental, acute in characterization. Solid reading - quite English - good bit of human interest. $2.50

September 24

Herzog, Margaret THREE TO GET READY Doubleday, Doran

Good for rentals and young moderns. A story of three men to pave the way to marriage, - Terry, millionaire playboy, Bill, strong and reliable, Crane, matinee idol. "The deb" is given a small part in his play, and does well; graduates to a large part and crashes. Result, gossip on Park Avenue, intensified when Crane has a heart attack in the subway and falls before a train. Bill rights about face and drops her. And Terry, lightweight, comes through on top. Fast action and glamorous set-up. $2.00

September 28

Pritchett, V. S. DEAD MAN LEADING Macmillan

A study of abnormal psychology and adventure, well handled, from both angles. Harry Johnson, egocentric, demands independence at all costs. Just before leaving on an expedition to the tropics, he becomes the lover of his fellow-explorer's daughter, and this becomes the source of a kind of mental self-torture. When the father accidentally shoots himself, Johnson assumes the guilt for his death, and in self punishment he goes with the third member of the party into the jungle, leaves him, while he goes deeper in to seek water - and never returns. The other man is saved. He dies, seeking ever the image of his own father, who had died in the jungle seventeen years before. It is a strange, somewhat morbid, but engrossing story - a study of a perverted masochist. Primarily a man's book, but limited by the psychological aspects to readers who are interested in that slant. Far better written than the average adventure novel. $2.50

September 30

Kerr, Sophie FINE TO LOOK AT Farrar & Rinehart

Sophie Kerr has her market down pat. Upper class rental libraries, somewhat conservative, more meat than the average light fiction, more sense of reality, This wont disappoint her audience. A story of political life in a midwestern state. A young college graduate, college founder of the Young America political clubs, get a job with the promising senator - and, in spite of her staid and serious young virginity, she falls in love with her boss. She looks down on his wife, perfect hostess and housekeeper, but is disillusioned when Courcey succumbs to temptations of bribery and is on verge of exposure when his wife comes to the rescue and saves the day. Plausible tale, good picture of social side of political life, of machinery of work and tactics. Not exciting reading, but substantial and interesting. $2.00

MYSTERIES, WESTERNS AND THRILLERS

July 15

Bain, Graham Ward ROUND ROBIN Lippincott

A bit on the coy side is the telling of The Green Arrow's adventures in forcing five slimy financiers to make restitution to a beautiful orphan and in keeping Scotland Yard from getting evidence against him. Disguises, fancy timing, light entertainment. $2.00

July 23

Hubbard, L. Ron BUCKSKIN BRIGADES Macaulay

The other side of the Indian picture: wherein a white man, raised as an Indian, becomes the victim of white men's business methods, learns to hate the white race, warns his red brothers of an expedition against them and causes a massacre. Pioneering in the Great Lakes' region and a sympathetic presentation of the Indians. $2.00

July 27

Yates, Margaret Tayler THE HUSH-HUSH MURDERS Macmillan

* Haphazard amateur detection and a large cast of characters in the killings that takesplace aboard a transport from China to San Francisco, with homeward bound Navy, Marine and Submarine families. Nurse Davvie, the unwilling heroine, tells the readable story of spy scares, stolen poison, corpses, patients, romantic and marital mix-ups. $2.50

July 28

Lucas, Jay BOSS OF THE RAFTER C Green Cricle (Lee Furman)

A good "horse-opera" spoiled by the writing: Border rustling is stopped, eventually, when the villains are tricked into robbing the U. S. mails. Boys get girls. $2.00

August ~~1~~ 23

Haycox, Ernest DEEP WEST Little, Brown

* Good Western atmosphere and real characters in the story of silent and loyal Benbow, whose successful routing of a rustling gang ends both in tragedy and happiness for himself. $2.00

Mid-August

Snow, Charles H. THE TRAIL TO ABILENE Macrae Smith

A childhood enmity over a girl is the basis for a feud between two men, driving one of them to outlawry, murder and pillage; the other finally puts him out of business - permanently. Average Western. $2.00

August 17

Innes, Michael HAMLET, REVENGE! Dodd, Mead

* Minute probing of circumstances and evidence, erudition of background, nice touches of humor and and interesting gallery of characters when the Lord High Chancellor of England is killed during a private production of *Hamlet*. Scotland Yard outguesses an amateur criminologist in deciding among 31 suspects. For the Sayers' audience. $2.00

September 1

Brace, Timothy MURDER GOES IN A TRAILER Dutton

Current interest in the background of trailers and trailer life. Millionaire sleuth Adams *(Murder Goes Fishing)* keeps quietly inactive in a Florida trailer camp and brings to justice the killer who has been correspondingly active. Good yarn. $2.00

September ~~8~~ 16

Foley, Pearl THE YELLOW CIRCLE Lippincott

Implausible, far-fetched in solution, many loose ends for the story of three murders, jewel robberies, evil villainy, Far Eastern magic, etc. Suburban New York proves a pretty exciting place! $2.00

September 7

Christie, Agatha POIROT LOSES A CLIENT Dodd, Mead

* Good Christie. Poirot, in tracing the facts behind a seemingly normal death, recreates the whole previous weekend of a family gathering and the accident. By pure deductive reasoning and a liberal sprinkling of lies in his interviewing, he arrives at the truth. English setting. $2.00

Ogden, George W. STOCKYARDS COWBOY Dodd, Mead

His only experience with cattle having been on his family's small ranch and in Kansas City stock yards, Wickersham is pretty much the tenderfoot when he goes out West to a job on a real ranch. He gets his desired share of fighting and adventure in defending name and life - and gets The Girl. Good average Western. $2.00

September 8

Footner, Hulbert THE OBEAH MURDERS Harper

The West Indies and its sorcery is the background for the murder of a drunken distillery owner and the necessity for the widow and the man who loves her to clear themselves, which they do after adventures and escapes. A bit on the lurid side. $2.00

September 8

Gardner, Erle Stanley THE CASE OF THE LAME CANARY Morrow

Perry Mason, on the verge of making that trip around the world, proves his close-mouthed, doublecrossing clients innocent of a murder and uncovers a racket in insurance and incendiary gangs behind the killings. A bit on the whirlwind side and not too scrupulously fair. (Serialized in the Saturday Evening Post). $2.00

September 10

Allingham, Margery DANCERS IN MOURNING Doubleday, Doran

* Good characters, situations and writing in the problem presented silent Campion: to discover who is persecuting English dancer, Sutane; who is responsible for the three ensuing deaths. Story plus detection, guessable but enjoyable. $2.00

Mason, Van Wyck THE HONGKONG AIRBASE MURDERS Doubleday, Doran

In Hongkong, Captain Hugh North finds an involved case which centers around the theft of a formula for airplane fuel from Trans-Pacific Airways and the many deaths in that company... Plenty of suspects, many nationalities among the characters and North having trouble with the ladies. Entertaining as usual. $2.00

September 13 14

Williams, Valentine THE CURIOSITY OF MR. TREADGOLD Houghton, Mifflin

* Short stories of the exploits of the Holmesian tailor, H. B. Treadgold, in untangling murders, robberies, kidnappings,etc. Solicitor Duckett plays Watson and rebels against too much quoting from *Tristram Shandy*. Solutions guessable, but that doesn't spoil the entertainment. With one exception, English backgrounds. $2.00

September 21

Stockwell, Gail DEATH BY INVITATION Macmillan

Involved but well timed, nice chit-chat and three love stories for the weekend party which sees the long promised murder of a much hated millionairess. $2.00

September 23

Bush, Christopher THE WEDDING NIGHT MURDER Holt

Ludovic Travers and Superintendent Wharton in friendly enmity worry through the mysterious death of a famous aviatrix on her wedding night, a case which turns up the strange behavior of the girl's many relatives. Good average quiet English. $2.00

September 24

Crofts, Freeman Wills FOUND FLOATING Dodd, Mead

For your English mystery enthusiasts who can stand practically no action and a heavy hand on the details is this Inspector French case involving an attempted poisoning, a Greek Island cruise and a drowning. Not breathtaking. $2.00

High Spots In Non-Fiction

The most important of the books on syphilis, *Shadow On The Land* by Dr. Parran (Reynal & Hitchcock); the three lectures Thomas Mann delivered at the New School, *Freud, Goethe and Wagner* (Knopf) in book form; *East Goes West* by Younghill Kang (Scribner) and the new Adamic, *The House In Antigua* (Harper) these are books not to be overlooked. See below for reports.

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS - *Non-Fiction*

July ~~14~~ 27

Parran, Dr. Thomas SHADOW ON THE LAND Reynal & Hitchcock

* In so far as we can judge, this seems more authoritative, complete and better organized than the other books on the subject. The approach varies - Parran's purpose is to show the impact of syphilis on the nation and its relation to public health, rather than to the individual (as in *10,000,000 Americans Have It*). He begins with the definition, manifestations, treatment, history, goes on to present day statistics, and then continues with what is the most challenging section of the book. He compares the measures for control and elimination in European countries with the scant progress here, the lack of interest, lack of funds, general evasion of the subject. He analyzes particularly its prevalence among Negroes; goes into the relation to the job, the relation to prostitution. He presents as his platform for action:- "Find syphilis, treat syphilis, teach syphilis." And he outlines the steps by which this should be effected. The book throughout is readable and should be of interest to all public spirited citizens. As Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service, which is handling 25 million dollars for the war on syphilis, his book is certain of wide publicity. Fully illustrated. Strong publisher backing. $2.00

July ~~22~~ 5 Oct

Perelman, S. J. STRICTLY FROM HUNGER Random House

Perelman has his staunch admirers, plus scores of indifferents. His particular type of humor strikes many readers (this one among them) as rant for the sake of ranting, and a bit hackneyed and inclined to punning. This is a collection of essays and stories, satires on such varied subjects as radicals to Hollywood and back, neat parodies (the take-off on *Waiting For Lefty* is a high spot). Many have appeared in The New Yorker, Stage, etc. $2.00

July 26

Celine, Louis-Ferdinand MEA CULPA and THE LIFE AND WORK OF SEMMELWEIS Little, Brown

The title essay deals almost blasphemously with Communism for which he has small regard, and makes no bones about it. Even where he concedes praise, he condemns while he praises. Not very specific - it is a question of mood rather than a presentation of fact.... This is followed by a medical thesis, a study of the man, who fifty years ahead of Pasteur, curbed puerperal fever by the use of anesthetics. Interesting narrative, revealing a wider scope than Celine indicates as sordid novelist. Appeal somewhat limited, though a fine piece of work. $2.00

July 26

Etnier, Elizabeth Jay ON GILBERT HEAD Little, Brown

First years of married life and adventure in buying an island off the Maine coast, living on a boat during the remodelling of a house, discovering bits of the island, and almost day by day life during three summer holidays. Her husband is a painter, and she tries her hand at it now and then. Possibly too intimately critical a picture to make the author any more beloved by family and friends, but rather entertaining reading. There seems to be a growing market for this "home in the country" sort of thing, and this is definitely a new slant on the subject. $2.50

July 28

Wrensch, Frank A., editor HORSES IN SPORT: *Photographs* Morrow

The sub-title reads "The Pictorial Cavalcade of American Equestrian Sports", and leaders in each field have contributed introductory notes to stunning photographs of racing, hunting, polo, trotting, and so on. Contributors include Devereux Milburn, Algernon Daingerfield, Alfred B. McClay, Harry T. Peters, "Larry" Larom, E. Roland Harriman and William B. Street. Sell to horse enthusiasts and your sporting book buyers. Good plus sale possibilities. $3.50

August 2

Linke, Lilo ALLAH DETHRONED Knopf

An interesting personal travel experience account by the German girl who wrote *Tale Without End* and *Restless Days*. This time her yen for new places took her to Turkey, chiefly Turkey in Asia Minor. There is more emphasis given to her own contacts with the people and interviews with them than to extensive descriptions of the country and the places she visited, but none the less one gets an impression of the life and the strange contrasts of old and new, of the innovations of modern Turkey up against the traditions of old Turkey. Map and 81 illustrations. $5.00

Mann, Thomas FREUD, GOETHE AND WAGNER Knopf

* The three lectures delivered by Mann at the New School for Social Research last winter. Not a repetition of previous published material on the same subjects... The chapter on *Freud and the Future* is a recognition of his life work as the cornerstone of a new structure which will be the future dwelling of a wiser and freer humanity, freed from fear and hate and ripe for peace... Mann looks upon Goethe as a great educator, who feeling his deep responsibility toward mankind tried to uplift humanity through beauty, self-discipline and self-control, along with moral courage. In Wagner's life, he stresses the eternal struggle between the musical genius and physical weakling, and reveals his own understanding of both. Obvious market. $2.00

August 5

Ripley, Austin MYSTERY PUZZLES Stokes

Has possibilities for a plus sale somewhere perhaps, for mystery fans plus puzzle fans. A collection of 60 minute mysteries, not too complicated and solvable by reading into facts presented implications. Supposedly authentic crime problems. The author holds chair of criminology and police science in an Eastern university (or so the preface states). Occasionally a riddle for good measure. $1.00

August 9

McNeill-Moss, Geoffrey THE SIEGE OF ALCAZAR August Catholic Bk Club Knopf
(Geoffrey Moss)

A rather matter of fact diary account of the heroic defence of the fortress of Alcazar, from July to the end of September, 1936. He knew Toledo and the Alcazar before the siege; he has been there since and his material is based on interview with survivors and a diary kept by one of the officers. A garrison of 1100 men, and 500 women, lived in the fortress during the bombardment, with scanty food, almost undrinkable water, and virtually no hope of relief. There was death and wounding and illness and desertion; but there was joy too, as when a Rebel airplane flew overhead and dropped a tin trunk of chocolate and sweets. Then came what seemed the end - a third of the Alcazar exploded. Still they held on, and ten days later relief came. The story itself has so much of fortitude and drama that, perhaps, it needed no elaboration. But as one reads, one feels the account is almost pallid in its restraint, its lack of anecdotal detail. Definitely, though not obtrusively, on the side of the Rebel (National) forces. An interesting contrast to Paul's *Life And Death Of A Spanish Town*, coming August 2. $3.50

August 10 ✓

Heylbut, Rose & Gerber Aime BACKSTAGE AT THE OPERA Crowell

Covers the régime of five directors, from Grau to the present, and reveals the personalities and methods of each one. Shows the machinery of running the opera (not confined to the Metropolitan), and is full of gossipy human interest material. Brings up to date with broadcasting as a feature. Illustrated. $3.00 ✓

Burgess, Gelett LOOK ELEVEN YEARS YOUNGER Aug 19 Simon & Schuster

Another chance for a money maker (under the S. & S. imprint) in a how to do the thing most people want to do. Gelett Burgess looks at life humorously with its faults and foibles and marks signposts for retarding old age. He claims that conscious control of careless habits in dress, manner, appearance, voice, reassert youth. A good tonic for those who need internal massage, to put age in its place. ~~$2.00~~ 1.90

Pearson, Hesketh LABBY 8-11 Harper
The Life of Henry Labouchere

An amusing and readable account of the bad boy of the Victorian era. A genius and a witty one, his youthful career consisted chiefly of pranks and flunking out of school in various dramatic ways. Gambling was a passion with him. His adventures took him to the continent, to America, Mexico, and to various places as attaché in diplomatic service. He retired from political life in London, married an actress, became a theatrical manager, purchased a share in the Daily News, founded and edited "Truth", and for the last thirty years of his life went back again into politics and held a seat in Parliament, most of that time, as a Radical. Good reading and not too long. $3.~~50~~ 00

August 17

Fisher, Anne B. LIVE WITH A MAN AND LOVE IT Dodd, Mead

Good common sense and should be read, marked, learned and inwardly digested along with a first book on cooking, by all young marrieds. Not as gay and modern as the Hillis' books - nor is it intended to be as flippant. $1.50

August 17

Bates, E. Stuart INSIDE OUT: Sheridan House
An Introduction To Autobiography

An odd book, which the author frankly acknowledges "aims mainly at introducing writers whom I like to readers who would wish to know them." He teachers as he goes, tempting to read in full the books he quotes so freely. He uses his quotations to illustrate descriptive and suggestive writing, to show the different use of materials and the style which most effectively portrays such phases of personal experience as growing up, adventure, being rich or being poor. Valuable to those interested in the analytical approach to biography and to the study of literature from a fairly popular angle. Not a book for entertainment primarily. Useful for reading groups, study groups in clubs, courses in literature, etc. $5.00

August 19

Ross, Leonard Q. THE EDUCATION OF H*Y*M*A*N K*A*P*L*A*N Harcourt, Brace

* There's a growing market for K*A*P*L*A*N's majestic utterances, followers who wait eagerly for each issue of The New Yorker hoping to find another of his evenings as student in Mr. Parkhill's class of the American Night Preparatory School for Adults. Inimitable humor - we like it better than *Nize Baby* or *Thunder Over The Bronx*.. If you are not familiar with the sketches, read the story of his rendering of the speech from ***Macbeth*** (which he placed in "Julius Scissor" - it is sheer genius. And it rings true. $2.00

~~August 20~~ 9/17/37

Kang, Younghill EAST GOES WEST: Scribner
The Making Of An Oriental Yankee

** Thoroughly delightful account of the adventures of a Chinese youth in the process of becoming Americanized. He fled from home to escape marrying the girl of his parents' choice, and with eagerness tried to take in all New York in a gulp. A zestful and entertaining tale it is, with trials told as adventure, with a refreshing candor as to his own naivete. In his eagerness he went into any and all sorts of work, from house boy to book agent, and studied for a degree which he realized did not mean education. His stories of love between his own race and American girls is a blend of tragedy and humor, and one is left in doubt as to the outcome of his own romance. Extremely well-written, entertaining reading, and should appeal to anyone who likes fresh biography and real humor. It deserves a wide popular sale. $2.75

Davis, Bob ORIENTAL ODYSSEY Stokes

The usual Bob Davis type of thing, - colloquial, personal, with no attempt to present the Orient from the travel angle, but rather a gossipy sharing of the author's own experiences. China, Japan, Hawaii - descriptive, anecdotal, anything from theatres to legends, jokes, carrier pigeons, hunting, love potions, foods. Distinctly journalistic and ephemeral in style and substance - for not too heavy reading. $3.00

August 23

Crawford, Nelson Antrim YOUR CHILD FACES WAR Coward, McCann

A small book with a good deal of truth and a good deal of tripe about training children against war and war propaganda. The author starts with what seems

to us a false premise, that quarreling in the home makes a child susceptible in after years to war hysteria. The constructive aspects of the book suggest that the study of existing institutions and their functioning is a constructive step towards preservation of peace. Appeal - parent - teacher groups, child study groups, anyone interested in peace. But limited because of its own limitations. $1.25

August 24

Ewen, David TWENTIETH CENTURY COMPOSERS Crowell

Seventeen of the moderns, beginning with Stravinsky, and including those young revolutionists in music who were the vanguard of the moderns. Edgar, Sibelius, Harris, Falla and so on. Biographical and critical data and appraisal of their individual contribution. Fair, objective but on the whole sympathetic. Illus. $3.00

September 7.

Canby, Henry S. editor THE WORKS OF THOREAU Houghton, Mifflin

An important contribution to the Thoreau picture, this skilful editing of the best of Thoreau into one volume. There is a terse and stimulating introduction, which places Thoreau among the immortals and yet gives him vitality and reality. Each section has its own brief prefatory note. The material includes extracts from the *Journals*, *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, *Walden*, *Poems*, and from his travel books, *Ktaadn* and *Cape Cod*. Nature essays, *Essay On Religion and Friendship*, *Man Against the State* and the address, *John Brown's Body*. $3.75

August 27

Lyman, George D. RALSTON'S RING Scribner
California Plunders the Comstock Lode

* Sure sale for the Coast, but elsewhere is certain to be compared with Julian Dana's *The Man Who Built San Francisco* (Macmillan) which had, perhaps, a wider appeal in its popular, fast-paced weaving of the dramatic story. This is a better book for those who know San Francisco and to whom the figures of those early days are familiar. But it's not as exciting reading as his own *Saga of the Comstock Lode* , to which it is a natural sequel. One feels that, perhapse, he has sacrificed objectivity to a personal admiration for Ralston, and that he builds the Sutro story to support his theory of Ralston's greatness. Be that as it may, the book is good reading, and has a chance for big local sales, and good sales nationally. $3.50

Announcing for ~~August 31~~ 10/26

Dodd, William E. STRUGGLES FOR DEMOCRACY: Macmillan
The Old South

An important book from the angle of libraries - public, college and private - which pretend to have a complete section on all angles of American history. Limited, however, to students of the subject, for the definitive treatment of the subject makes this but the first of a projected four volume study of the subject, the volume one covers only the first years of English settlement to the end of the 17th century, in Virginia, Maryland and the Carolinas. $3.50

September 7

Habas, Ralph A. A PRIMER OF MORALS Crowell

This is a book for which, frankly, there seems to me little place. There is no attempt to build a constructive or challenging philosophy or creed of morals, but there is a good deal of wise cracking, a collection of case items, and reams of epigrammatical statements. Rather cheap, it seemed to me, in form at least. $2.00

Haslett, A. W. EVERYDAY SCIENCE Knopf

* Interesting and of wide general appeal. The author follows through from briefly stated theoretical aspects of science to the practical application to make life more comfortable, economical and efficient. Refrigeration, air conditioning, heat, light, vaccuum cleaning, electric and gas cooking, valuations of good content and balanced diet, endocrinology, blood analysis, developments in criminology, and so on. I found it fascinating reading and stimulating to the imagination. Should have a plus sale for boys and girls interested in applied science. $2.75

September ~~8~~ 22

Adamic, Louis THE HOUSE IN ANTIGUA Harper

* To suggest was to spur him on - so Adamic tumbled into an invitation to visit Wilson Popenoe, scientist with the United Fruit Company in Honduras and Guatemala, in his famous house in Antigua. Once there, the magic of the house itself, all it stood for in buried history, and the dramatizing of the spirit and personality of its dead re-creator, Dorothy Popenoe, captured his imagination, and he was not content until he had uncovered all the source material she had found on its story and legend, and conveyed to his readers that same magic which captivated him. A book that will appeal on many grounds:- a human document, a bit of antiquity, the essence of travel - and a new Adamic item. $3.00

Maxim, Hiram Percy HORSELESS CARRIAGE DAYS Harper

Not a sequel to *Genius In The Family*, but an account of his own adventures in the early days of motor transportation. Trial and error methods, a good deal of fairly technical data on combustion and engines. Parts of it are amusing, as flash-backs to the first conference, the early races, a long distance trip from Hartford to Springfield, and so on. The period is the end of the 19th century. Good background for any study of the history of automobiles. Part of this have appeared in Harper's Magazine. Possibility of plus sale for older boys. $2.50

Alschuler, Rose H. TWO TO SIX Morrow

Announcing revised edition of a manual that has proved very valuable in its suggestive data on child training. Outlines programs of eating, sleeping, play, and so on, with excellent lists of play materials, music, books graded for age. New material on music and play, revised lists to include books and music since 1933, additional material on pets and nature. Based on Winnetka group experiences. $2.00

September 9

Closs, Hannah Priebsch ART AND LIFE Stokes

Not a book for the general reader unless the subject of modern art is near and dear. Goes too much into philosophy of modern art for the uninitiate, discussing values of line, mass, color, space, material and form, not only of today's conception but of the past. Attempt to link art and society throughout. Emphasis on German art. 60 illustrations. $4.00

September 9

Pevsner, Nikolaus PIONEERS OF THE MODERN MOVEMENT Stokes

This I found more comprehensible for one unversed in the subject. Beginning with William Morris, the author traces the influences that laid the groundwork for modern art and architecture, and showed the close alliance with social reform. With the interest today in Cezanne, Van Gogh, Gauguin and their followers, this book fills a real need for an analysis of the steps leading up to them. 80 illustrations. $3.50

September 10

Hopkins, Mary Alden PROFITS FROM COURTESY Doubleday, Doran

A book of business etiquette, based on the theory that while social etiquette is growing more informal, business etiquette is becoming more rigid, because of its material results. She indicates methods of stimulating courtesy, on the part of the employer, co-worker, employees - a brief bit on the psychology of manners - different types of business etiquette. Telephone usage, personal appearance, conversation, vocabulary, etc. etc. Office etiquette, retail selling etiquette, value of etiquette in public service work, police, railroad, delivery boys, and so on. Lastly, gasoline stations, beauty parlors, restaurants, theatres, Concrete throughout, practically no anecdotal or case material. Does and donts for types of employees. Nothing very new, but the approach is different. Business audience. $1.96

September 10

Carrington, Hereward THE PSYCHIC WORLD Putnam

The author is director of the American Psychical Institute , so that alone should carry weight with the fast growing market for books in this field. Here, between covers, is a general survey of virtually all phases of psychic phenomena, presumably based on concrete evidence and fact. The opening chapters reveal a thoroughly scholarly approach; he knows the field from Bergson and James down. Then he goes into manifestations, with specific instances of each type - levitation, telepathy, clairvoyance, ghosts, yoga, fire walking, dervishes, etc. He does not attempt to present scientific explanations - "seeing is believing." Evidence drawn from Oriental and African sources. $2.75

Fay, Erica KINGS AND HEROES Putnam

Publishers are aiming for double market with these short narrative poems, dealing with the kings of England and the legends that have grown up around them. However, we feel that the adult market is very slight, that they really belong on a juvenile list. Ballads in feel and tempo - simple, lively, colorful, dramatic, a definite contribution to a more intimate feeling about English history. Alfred, Canute, Richard Coeur de Lion, Prince Hal, and many others. $1.50

September 13

Hillyer, Robert A LETTER TO ROBERT FROST AND OTHERS Knopf

Dialogues in poetic form (or to be more specific, verse form)-iambic pentameter, with not too strict a rhyme scheme. The addressee is merely a spring-

board for developing ideas along varying lines. The one to Frost deals with reviewing other poets and writers of the time, trends, ephemerality of acclaim, etc. The second, to a college friend, recaptures memories of Harvard and talks of education as well. The most serious is to a young man who died during the war, and contains the most poetic thought and expression of the lot. Most of them are in lighter vein, with rather ponderous attempts at humor. Disappointing - even for Hillyer fans. $2.00

September 13

Baringer, William E. LINCOLN'S RISE TO POWER Little, Brown

Research in the field of Lincoln source material revealed a paucity of material dealing with the election of 1860, and the practical aspects of it. So this entire book deals with the politics before and during 1860, showing Lincoln in his dingy office, doubting whether he ever achieves his ambition of becoming Senator from Illinois. He stresses the turn of chance, the part played by luck and the strategy used to put him over. Appeal to people interested in Lincoln, students of politics, the general reader, for the book is surprisingly good reading. $4.00

Frisbie, Robert Dean MY TAHITI Little, Brown

The author went to the South Seas in 1920, invested in property on the island of Tahiti, and virtually took up native life with a native as foster father. A nice job, with humor, charm and a keen appreciation of the people themselves. Tells of fishing, of the daily life, of his own adventures with the natives, and with the odds and ends of whites who drifted there. Indicates imminent changes which the years since then have probably brought about. Sell as personal experience. $2.50

September 14

Ditmars, Raymond L. THE MAKING OF A SCIENTIST Macmillan

* All of the Ditmars' books succeed in making science and scientists more alive than any other books in allied fields. This is more directly autobiography than most of his, for he goes back to the steps by which he became a scientist; the breadth of his scientific curiosity, from boyhood, his first museum job, and his subsequent experiences along various lines. Snakes, yes - but his enthusiasm included the inner workings of a motor car, weather, bacteriology, monkeys, bats and so on. Good entertainment and made to order for older boys as well. $3.00

September 16

Schachner, Nathan AARON BURR Stokes

This was reviewed last January, close to the time of the publication of the Holmes Alexander book on Burr. The publication was then postponed, so that the conflict would not be too great. Both books are readable, both sincere, both adequate. The Alexander book is more aggressively critical; this one glosses over and dramatizes his character a bit. Incident after incident is virtually identical - the same sources have evidently been tapped. This is, perhaps, a more colorful picture, and emphasizes the middle years, where the other is more analytical and shows the disintegration of the man, and the basic reason for it. This may have more chance for a popular sale; the other for substantial reference. Illustrated. $3.50

Announcing for September ~~28~~ 21

Teasdale, Sara COLLECTED POEMS Macmillan

Poems, previously scattered in eight volumes, now brought together, with exception of omissions she requested before her death. $2.50

September ??

Bill, Alfred H. ASTROPHEL Farrar & Rinehart

"Biography of the man whose life is perhaps the complete expression of the chivalric ideal, Sir Philip Sidney. In view of the glamorous possiblities of the material, this is almost too restrained. The author draws on only the most reliable sources, never dramatizes or conjectures, scarcely even plays up high spots. For the most part, a detailed chronicle of the times, excellent material on court figures. Little space is given to characterization or interpretation of the man, and is therefore more an Elizabethan record than a biography of Sidney. Sober-paced. Well documented." Report from February 15th bulletin. Book publication postponed from April. $3.50

September ?? pp?

Wills, Helen FIFTEEN - THIRTY Scribner

Not very colorful, but a sincere story of her own life. The surprising thing is the amount she has accomplished in her thirty years. In addition to international fame as a tennis player, she has written articles, done newspaper feature work, exhibited and sold her own sketches and etchings, posed for the mural in the San Francisco Stock Exchange, sat for her portrait to Leopold Seyffert, climbed the Jungfrau, spent two years of semi-invalidism, and married Freddie Moody. There are fine bits of description. Her games seem to happen before the reader's eyes. She gives them in sufficient detail for the fan - but not too much for the average reader. On the whole, a good job. Appeal wider than simply the tennis fans. Illustrated with photographs and reproductions of her own work. $3.00

Already Published

Hines, Duncan ADVENTURES IN GOOD EATING 856 W. Adams St. Chicago

This was brought to my attention by Harry Korner of Cleveland, and I, in turn, am passing the tip on to you. It's a book every bookstore could sell, and it fills a very real need. The author, for years, has been collecting and keeping up to date data on good eating places the country over. This is arranged geographically, with the motorist and traveler in mind. Highways and byways of North America and Mexico and a listing of 1250 places in the second edition make it of coast to coast value. I checked, for curiosity, on places I knew personally, and found very few omissions. Location, type of food, how and when served, and prices presented tersely and accurately. The address where the book can be secured is given above, and Mr. Korner reports that the discount to the trade is unexpectedly generous. The size of the book makes it good pocket size for carrying or for tucking into a car pocket. $1.50

Moffat, Donald THE MOTT FAMILY IN FRANCE Little, Brown

Amusing pictures of life in France, through the things that happen to the Mott family who take up residence there. At the post office, on the beach, customs, shops, and so on. Well done essays, delightful in style, keen in observation, written with light, deft touch. In this new collection, he recounts what happens when the tourist decides to stay on in one of those picture book old world towns. $2.00

PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES IN TITLE, DATE AND PRICE

		Page
Saxon, L.	- CHILDREN OF STRANGERS(Houghton, Mifflin) from 6/21 to 7/6	216
Chaffee, A.	- TAWNY GOES HUNTING (Random House) Definite date is 9/7/37 - Price from $1.75 to $2.00	249
Paul, E.	- THE LIFE AND DEATH OF A SPANISH TOWN (Random House) from 6/21 to 8/2 - August Book of the Month Club Selection with THE ANOINTED by C. B. Davis as co-choice	221
Schachner, N.	- AARON BURR (Stokes) definite date 9/16/37	268
Cronin, A. J.	- MANSON, M.D. (Little, Brown) correct title	252

THE NEW YORK OFFICE CALENDAR - JULY 15TH TO AUGUST 1ST

July 16	- Bailey T. - I'VE BEEN TO LONDON (Penn)	214
	- Goodyear, S. - CATHEDRAL CLOSE (Scribner)	253
July 19	- Swanson, N. - THE FIRST REBEL (Farrar & Rinehart)	241
July 20	- Thayer, Lee - A MAN'S ENEMIES (Dodd, Mead)	220
July 21	- Millay, Edna S.V. - CONVERSATION AT MIDNIGHT (Harper) (Still no advance material available)	136
July 23	- Lamson, D. - WHIRLPOOL (Scribner)	253
	- Mannin, E. - WOMEN ALSO DREAM (Putnam)	217
July 26	- Seymour, B. K. - THE HAPPIER EDEN (Little, Brown)	214
July 27	- Meigs, C. - RAILROAD WEST (Little, Brown)	236
	- Wilkins, V. - AND SO - VICTORIA (Macmillan)	215
	- Yates, M. T. - THE HUSH-HUSH MURDERS (Macmillan)	258
July 28	- Dickson, C. - THE PEACOCK FEATHER MURDER (Morrow)	220
	- Stevenson, D. E. - MISS BUNCLE'S BOOK (Farrar & Rinehart)	236
July 29	- Davis, C. B. - THE ANOINTED (Farrar & Rinehart) August Book of the Month Club Selection with THE LIFE AND DEATH OF A SPANISH TOWN by Elliot Paul as co-choice	68
July 30	- Wector, D. - THE SAGA OF AMERICAN SOCIETY (Scribner)	97

Add This Title To Your July 1st to 15th Calendar

July 14	- Parran, Thos. - SHADOW ON THE LAND (Reynal & Hitchcock)	261

BULLETIN FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

July 1, 1937 No. 3

FALL JUVENILE SUPPLEMENT

PICTURE BOOKS

de Brunhoff, Jean — THE BABARS - 4 volumes — Random House

* Good merchandise, at this price, where previously these inimitable books fell in the luxury class. The four volumes, in English:- THE STORY OF BABAR, THE TRAVELS OF BABAR, BABAR THE KING and THE A B C OF BABAR. Size reduced from 10½ x 14½ to 7 x 8½ (present size of the A B C) - five and six colors - newly hand lettered text, easy to read. (September 14) Each - $1.00

GRADUATING TO PICTURE STORY BOOKS

Brock, Emma — THE PIG WITH A FRONT PORCH — Knopf

* Here is an artist who writes her own stories, with unfailing humor and atmosphere and a folk quality. She understands what is funny to small children and everyone of her picture-story-books brings chuckles and glee to little listeners. Picture and story interwoven - plenty of action. Story of two venturesome pigs who seek their fortunes in the Gaspe country - and gratefully return to their old homes, content to abandon ambition. (September 7) $1.75

Weisgard, Leonard — SUKI: *The Siamese Pussy* — Nelson

A Siamese cat wants to go to Paris so runs away and embarks on a ferry boat, and finds it isn't all he had hoped. Rather a silly story and the pictures are an anticlimax after Clare Newberry's *Mittens*. (September 15) $2.00

Wiese, Kurt — KURT WIESE'S PICTURE BOOK OF ANIMALS — Coward, McCann

Reprint, including in one volume *Karoo*, *Ella*, and *Wallie*. You remember them - fact in fiction form - animal stories. Illustrations in flat color and simple technique. Not distinguished but sound value. (September 27) Probably $2.50

BOOKS IN FRENCH

Macy, Juliette — DEUX ENFANTS DE FRANCE
DEUX ENFANTS A LA MER — Macmillan

Small French primers, with gay, rather modern pictures by L. Brooke McNamara. For children just beginning French and young enough not to feel imposed upon by the simplicity of the content, these are excellent and fill a long-felt need. Unfortunately, beginning French usually comes when children want something beyong primer content, and the text would bore them. The pictures are quite French in feel - simple, smart and gay in color. (Published) $ .50

JUVENILE BOOKS

FIRST STEPS IN READING - *Story Books*

DeWitt, Josephine — THE FISHERMAN AND HIS CAT — Nelson

Amusing story of a fisherman who always felt out of it when stories were told of adventures with a miracle fish. Then came his own adventure, and it was so strange that it brought laughter and incredulity - until his pet cat went out and made it all come true. Text and illustrations by author. (September 8) $1.25

Holberg, Ruth and Richard — HESTER AND TIMOTHY — Doubleday, Doran

* Good content material in story of pioneer children and their share of the family adventures crossing the "wilderness" of Wisconsin, headed for the new town of Milwaukee. When the parents weaken and decide to turn east again, it is the children who make them stay and face the hardships. Illustrated by the authors with 64 colored illustrations, six full-pages in line and chapter heads. (September 10) $1.50

Quigg, Jane — JEAN AND JON ARE STILL SIX — Nelson

Sequel to *Jean and Jon Are Six*. More incidents - less close attention to somewhat established pattern of progressive school stories for this age group, so may prove more popular and less obvious to the children than some of this material. Incidents round the year, first day at school, Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, a picnic, a school play, etc. There's a bit of moralizing - but not too much. The pictures in the last book were inaccurate from point of view of text. Not available at this time, but hope they are better. (September 8) $1.50

Tousey, Sanford — CHINKY, THE BANKER PONY — Doubleday, Doran

Excellent - good content close to child's universal interest in story based on little known facts of annual pony round-up at Chincoteague Island off the Virginia coast. The children go with their uncle and help choose the pony they want, take him home and the details of his training are given. The vocabulary is uneven, but the interest of the story will carry the more difficult words. There may be some criticism of the ethics of small Peter starting a paper delivery route at too early an age, but I don't believe this will hurt the book. Illustrated by author. (~~September 10~~) October 22 $1.00

White, Elize Orne — THE FARM BEYOND THE TOWN — Houghton, Mifflin

This is the first of this particular author's stories that has struck a spark with me, and this one - though the succession of incidents are still loosely hung together - is better written than its predecessors and distinctly more entertaining. Once again a New England story of a little girl who spends six months visiting her New England grandfather, and finding new friends and new interests. (September ~~8~~) 21 $1.75 ✓

FIRST STEPS IN READING - *Fact Books*

Pryor, William Clayton & Helen Sloman — THE STREAMLINE TRAIN BOOK — Harcourt, Brace

Supplement to *The Train Book* and meeting the demand for the most up-to-date information about modern trains. Does not repeat on basic facts, so should bring plus sales for earlier volume. Illustrated with excellent photographs. (August 5) $1.00

JUVENILE BOOKS

STORY BOOKS FOR THE 9's TO 12's

Armer, Laura Adams THE TRADER'S CHILDREN Longmans, Green

Am I a renegade - or what - that I find Mrs. Armer's books steadily declining in interest, and too consciously crammed with facts that she wishes her readers to absorb in the process of her story? The books are beautiful - the decorations and illustrations from photographs by the author are thoroughly worth while. There are many interesting facts in the story of the life at a trading post, as shared by the trader's children. But it seemed to me the story thread was almost lost, time and again. However, the Newbery Prize award for her first book, *Waterless Mountain*, makes her an author not to be overlooked in the field of Indian stories. (September 2) $2.50

Dalgliesh, Alice WINGS FOR THE SMITHS Scribner

Sequel to *The Smiths and Rusty* and a book with just as sure an appeal. Everyday incidents in the life of an upper middle class family, whose claim to distinction is their almost unanimous airmindedness. The "friends of aviation" club, the school contest for a poster strike an original note. Illustrated by the Haders. (August 27) $1.75

Hatch, Richard W. THE CURIOUS LOBSTER Harcourt, Brace

** I loved it, and I think most children will like it. The age appeal is a bit tenuous - children younger than nine will enjoy it read aloud; children much beyond nine may find it "babyish" until they are old enough to appreciate from a different angle, its humor and originality. Place it with those who like *The Wind in the Willows* and its kin. A very entertaining story of a lobster whose curiosity led him far afield and into all sorts of adventures. Delightfully illustrated in black and white. (September 30) $2.00

Hunt, Mabel Leigh SUSAN, BEWARE! Stokes

* Susan was eleven, and dreaded the threat of having to grow up and be a lady all the time - and to avoid it she seemed, accidentally on purpose, to be in hot water and behaving anything but like a lady almost constantly. It's fun for the child who has tomboy traits - or who has a secret yearning to display them. (September 8) $1.75

Lee, Melicent Humason MARCOS Whitman

* Charming story of a Mexican hill town boy who goes to Oaxaca to seek the family fortune, with a stock of apples as a starter. On the journey, his stock dwindles but he makes his way by helping here and there, and could have had various jobs, but they wouldn't earn him a team of oxen. Then comes his arrival in the "city" and his amazement at the city's unfriendliness - until he finds a kind lady who lets him water her garden and a weaver who will teach him his trade. Good story - delightful atmosphere - lovely pictures by the Haders - and unfortunately poor type page. (Published) $2.00

Moon, Grace WHITE INDIAN Doubleday, Doran

* Compare with Mrs. Armer's *The Trader's Children* (above). This book does what that book fails to do. It gives in the guise of a first rate story, all any youngster really wants to know about a trader's child. This one went with an Indian woman to live in her hogah while her parents were away, and you get some of Indian life. The story is well-paced and not too far-fetched. Illustrated by Carl Moon. (September 10). $2.00

JUVENILE BOOKS

Taylor, Florance Walton — VERMILION CLAY — Whitman

Another Indian story, with a white child as the central figure. The Grigsby's leased the salt lands from the government - the Indians who used the lick for generations resented it and captured their small daughter and held her hostage. You follow Indian life among the Miamis and the Pottawatomis as shared by their small captive. Good yarn - though one feels that the factual background lacks the note of authenticity. Pictures by Eleanor Mussey. (~~September~~ 1) 10/1/37 $1.50

Turngren, Annette — FLAXEN BRAIDS — Nelson

* Swedish story and charming. A little family of a lumberman who has lost the use of one hand set out to make a living and this tells of their adventures, as they earn a bit here, a bit there, find summer employment with one farmer and winter employment with another. A vivid and very human picture of the activities of rural life and a very real feel of the people and the land. I liked it. Good folk material on a people of whom we know too little. (September 8) $1.50

FACT BOOKS FOR THE 9's TO 12's

Arnold, E. Oren — WILD AMERICANS — Whitman

Nature study of native wild creatures in our own southwest, covering so wide a range as mountain goats, mountain lions, coyotes, pack rats, jack rabbits, lizards, bears, skunks and so on. Individual anecdotes, woven into a slight story of a family crossing the desert in a trailer. Good factual content but amateurish. Illustrated with photographs. (August 15) $1.50

Bronson, Wilfred S. — THE WONDER WORLD OF ANTS — Harcourt, Brace

* I liked it better than his other books, because he hasn't wrapped his facts in sugar-coating. All types of ants - their value - their life - where found - and so on. Interesting in telling and delightfully illustrated in color and line. (August 26) $1.50

Cheyne-Stout, Captain R. — AT THE ZOO — Farrar & Rinehart

I have no doubt but what these play-books will sell. It is a new idea, and the publishers are going after the market vigorously. A merchandising feature, primarily. Each book (there will be three in all) is equipped with glasses set into the back of the book, and hinged so that they can be used as a stereoptican. In the front of the book descriptive text faces pages of pictures, double, as in the old-fashioned stereoptican slides. The catch is this. Many children's eyes will fail to adapt themselves to the glasses. I tested three - and none of them could use them. Granted normal eyesight, they are probably satisfactory, but with careful parents, raise this point so as not to have the question riased later. This first volume pictures and describes animals of the zoo. Subsequent publications:- SAILING IN (ships) and WHAT IS IT? (puzzle pictures seen through a microscope). (Published) $2.50

Hager, Alice Rogers — BIG LOOP AND LITTLE — Macmillan

Excellent factual content about life of a cowboy, details of clothing, reasons for it, daily and seasonal round, grades of work, living conditions, food, activities, rodeos, dude ranches, etc. Stunning photography. A book that fills a real need. Interest wider than juvenile field, but could start with this age group. (Published) $2.00

JUVENILE BOOKS

Meadowcroft, Enid L. THE GIFT OF THE RIVER Crowell

* In appearance this book is indicated for somewhat younger children. Type-page layout - vocabulary, for the most part. But the content seems to hit about the nine-ten year old market. History of Egypt, done as history of the ancient world should be done with a sense of present vitality, a keen ear for story, an eye for the pictorial and dramatic, and a sense of the pace and march of history as events. A book which might well be used as a first text book - but which is good reading as well. Illustrated appropriately for the subject. (September 7) 9-12 $2.00

Scacheri, Mario and Mabel WINNEBAGO BOY Harcourt, Brace

* Distinctly older in appeal than *Indians Today* - perhaps intentionally, so that the other should be used first. The first book is somewhat general. This book takes one tribe specifically, and through the eyes and experience of an Indian boy raised in a white school, shows the way of life and the annual ceremony in which the Indians of the tribe seek to recapture and retain their ancient tribal customs and traditions. Through dance and song and legend, the ceremony proceeds. Beautiful photographs and interesting text. (July 22) $2.00

Steen, Elizabeth K. RED JUNGLE BOY Harcourt, Brace

* This would go with younger children, if read to them. But for this age group, the story of a ten year old boy of South American jungles would appeal for reading to themselves. How he learns to spear fish, catch turtles, make and use bow and arrows, harden himself to become a man, daily round of life, beautifully told and illustrated in chalk reds and greens and blacks. The author is a well-known anthropologist, who has both written and illustrated her story. (September 9) $2.00

FOR THE 12 to 15 YEAR OLDS - *Fiction*

Bailey, Bernadine F. PUCKERED MOCCASINS Whitman

Not top flight but average tale against historical background, with a touch of romance. Dave's father is wounded and Dave carries on as messenger to Heald at Fort Dearborn. But the message is incomplete - the mystery of the identity of the spy is unsolved - Heald removes the settlers to Fort Wayne and they are set upon and only Dave, his father and a girl escape. Illustrated. (~~September 15~~ 10/1/37) $1.50

Beaty, John O. SWORDS IN THE DAWN Longmans, Green

A saga-ish tale of the forerunners of the English - account of Danes and Frisians - of enmity during enforced stay of Danes among the Frisians - of the aid given the English by the Danes - of the winning of the maid our hero loves - of the founding of the kingdom of the North Sea Peoples in Britain. Recreation from scanty material of customs, clothing, life and times - date about 448 A.D. Good school supplementary reading. Public and school libraries. (August 25) $1.75

Davis, Lavinia SKYSCRAPER MYSTERY Scribner

Technical information about building with adventure and mystery as the thread of the tale. A youth has flunked out of Tech and with another boy they get into steel construction jobs in New York. There they smell out some funny business and keep their eyes open for sabotage and are finally able to trace down the source of the trouble. Good vocational yarn. Illustrated. (August 13) $2.00

JUVENILE BOOKS

Lender, Charles F. DOWN THE OHIO WITH CLARK 12-16 Crowell

Story of the early 1800's, highlighting a point in Clark's career, a handful of men routing out the British, fast action and facts smoothly combined. Pioneer lore and life under Clark's inspirational leadership in story centering around the Todhunter brothers who went with George Rogers Clark to guard the settlers headed for Kentucky, and to wrest the forts from the British. (August 24) $2.00

Lide, Alice Alison & Johansen, Margaret Alison SECRET OF THE CIRCLE Longmans, Green

* First rate adventure-mystery set in the days of the Hanseatic League, in the story of a lad who accompanies his trader father on a caravan trip to a distant city, and of the secret the lad carried, only to be caught, with his father, in a trap set for them. The solving of the mystery and the escape. Good yarn, and extremely interesting and seemingly authentic picture of the times. (September 8) $1.75

Rosenberg, Melrich V. WITH SWORD AND SONG Houghton, Mifflin

Late 12th and early 13th century in France - the province of Aquitaune - as the background for adventures of a 15 and 16-year old squire, who at the opening of the story are receiving their training. Rumors of ruin threatening their own properties cause them to set out for home and many adventures intervene before their purpose is achieved. Good background material - well-paced story. Style somewhat stilted. Difficult to get good material of this period, so fills a need. (August or September) $2.00

FOR THE 12 to 15 YEAR OLDS - *Non Fiction*

Hamilton, Elisabeth B. *Edited by* HOW THEY STARTED Harcourt, Brace

Good selection in avoidance of hackneyed material. Distinguished from usual collection of the sort in that it takes only the youths of these successful men, which gives it an inspirational and vocational value. Davy Crockett - J. D. Rockefeller - Hans Christian Andersen - Theodore Roosevelt - William Tecumseh Sherman - Dwight Morrow - John J. Audubon. Illustrated with photographs. (August 12) $2.00

Hawthorne, Hildegarde RISING THUNDER Longmans, Green

Might be sold as fictionized biography, but classifies better as non-fiction, so closely does the author follow the probable details of the career of a little-known hero of Revolutionary days, Jack Jouett. Sometimes history books mention the famous ride which saved Jefferson for a greater future, but most of them ignore it. Pictures his boyhood, early friends and contacts, the war itself gradually involving this section and that - and Jouett's interesting career. Well done, but the very unfamiliarity of the figure may limit its appeal. (August 18) $2.00

Witcombe, Wallace H. ALL ABOUT MINING Longmans, Green

This is the first book on mining that really accomplishes what it sets out to do. That is, it gives a general survey of types of mining, of mines, of material mined - iron, gold, copper, platinum, silver, aluminum, oil, coal, jewels, etc. New developments. Not inspired - but good factual content. Reference shelves primarily. (September 8) $2.00

JUVENILE BOOKS

FIFTEEN AND UP - *Fiction*

Fleming, Waldo — A RIDDLE IN FEZ — Doubleday, Doran

Somewhat involved mystery and adventure story against a colorful background, - Morocco, where two schoolmates set out to run down the suspects in a case involving the visit of the Sultan to one youth's father. Slave trading is the crux of the matter. Exciting but not top notch. Illustrated by Frank Dobias. (September 10) $2.00

Girvan, Helen — BLUE TREASURE — Farrar & Rinehart

* A mystery story, in which 18-year old Anne inherits a house in Bermuda, where she must live for a year and a day continuously. Other possible heirs try to frighten her away, but she discovers the cause of their anxiety, reveals - under a bad portrait - a Vermeer, and insures the future of the whole family by its sale. Nice family, scatter-brained but likable girl, good Bermuda atmosphere. (September 13) $2.00

Lewis, Elizabeth Foreman — CHINA QUEST — Winston

* A book for an older market than her previous books, and in spirit and feel recalls books by Alice Tisdale Hobart. A High School lad is fired with enthusiasm for China by a speaker, and when his dream comes true and his father is sent to China on business, he willingly abandons his plans for aviation, and enters the spirit of the Chinese venture with gusto. Good adventure - the friendship of the American boy with a young Chinese youth, the beginnings of a career seeking out unique things in remote parts of China. Thoroughly worthwhile. Illustrated by Kurt Wiese. Junior Literary Guild. (September 1) $2.00

Medary, Marjorie — COLLEGE IN CRINOLINE — Longmans, Green

Interesting for the picture it gives of the restrictions of a girl's life in the middle of the past century, of the attitude towards education, towards social activities, towards the relations between the sexes, and so on. The plot is tenuous - mild romance - problems of the Civil War and loyalties. (August 25) $2.00

Sherman, Edith Bishop — MID-FLIGHT — Longmans, Green

A sequel to *The Gay Chariot* but not dependent on it for interest. Carries on the adventures of Jerry Gay, when he goes to spend a vacation with his engineer father in Nevada, is robbed en route and forced to hike and work his way west. Plenty of action, elements of a conventional western in his ranching experiences, and a bit of hunting, flying and even hi-jacking. Somewhat overdone. (August 18) $2.00

Smith, S. S. — THE SPY MYSTERY — Harcourt, Brace

Soviet Russia - the besprizorni (wild boys) - the OGPU. The boys act as spies to get evidence against the engineer of a power plant, but discover that the source of trouble is actually the head of the OGPU himself. Fresh slant on material on which too little is available, and written with this author's usual workmanlike form. (August 19) $2.00

Stackpole, E. A. — PRIVATEER AHOY! — Morrow

The War of 1812, with details of the problems besetting the colonies and a fine nautical atmosphere. A New York state farm boy joins forces with a Quaker,

a waggoner and a woodsman, who plan to get a privateer and run the British bloackade of New England. They are taken prisoners, escape to Nantucket and eventually engage with various of the British fleet, beach a prize vessel after a fight to the finish and divide the prize money. Good adventure - and a peaceful ending. (September 8) $2.00

BOOKS FOR USE BY TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Davis, Mary Gould, selected by WITH CAP AND BELLS Harcourt, Brace

* Splendid collection which fills a great need for humorous stories and which includes stories by Sandburg, Stockton, Parker Fillmore, Valery Carrick, Mary E. Wilkins, Richard Hughes and many other favorites. A goldmine for story tellers. Invaluable for schools, camps, and home family reading hours. The one lack is a bibliography, indicating further paths of adventure in humor. (August 12) $2.00

Jordan, Nina R. THE HOME TOY SHOP Harcourt, Brace

A how-to-do book, valuable for rainy days and periods of convalescence. How to make all sorts of homemade toys, and trash studiously avoided. Both boy and girl interests, including tire tube toys, boats, stock dolls, clothespin planes, cardboard figures, furniture, spool dolls, peanut playthings, trains, jointed toys, finger puppets, musical toys, etc. Practical directions and inexpensive materials. Good for hospitals, clubs, schools, parent-teacher shelves, etc. Illustrated. (August ~~10~~ 5 $2.00

Leeming, Joseph FUN WITH BOXES Stokes

Another how-to-do book, but not a "must book". Box toys planned from every conceivable angle, and frequently straining a point. Includes some worthwhile ideas but a great many not worth the time and trouble. Toys and games, furniture and household articles, wooden boxes and cardboard boxes. Chief value for craftwork in camps and schools, where expenses are drastically curtailed and supplies limited. (August 20) $2.00

ADULT BOOKS FOR OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS

Fiction

Meigs, Cornelia RAILROAD WEST Little, Brown

(For full report see page 236 - June 15th bulletin). Excellent historical background story of the breaking through the wilderness to lay out the line for the Northern Pacific. From Minnesota woods to the Yellowstone, heroic engineers labored, to return to civilization and a nation in financial collapse, the scheme bankrupt. Against the background is told the love story of a young engineer and a girl. Historical aspects first rate - plot rather thin, for the audience for which it is planned. A good marginal book for older boys and girls. (July 26) $2.00

Non Fiction

Swanson, Neil H. THE FIRST REBEL Farrar & Rinehart

(For full report see page 241 - June 15th bulletin). Grand reading - this biography of one James Smith, in the years between 1755 and 1799. Absorbing adventure yarn, full of "the spirt of '76" with no flag waving. Young Smith was in on the first shot, later fell prisoner, was adopted into an Indian tribe, eventually escaped, but finally tumbled into events in the outposts of war in Quebec. Good Americana and as exciting reading as an adventure story. (July 19) $3.00